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SYDNEY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1916.

## SUMMARY.

The French newspapers are unanimous that the Note has aroused widespread interest in Germany.

The "New York Times" says Germany must be made to understand that the Allies are determined to fight on.

The "Daily Chronicle" says Germany is beaten in the war.

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## 1916-CHRISTMAS DAY-1916.

On this day of the whole year, when the world is at rest, and the spirit of peace is abroad, we are reminded of the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

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## PEACE MOVE

GERMAN ANXIETY  
FURTHER RIOTS

## AMERICAN NOTE

## PRESIDENT CRITICISED

President Wilson's Note, following on Germany's proposals, has met with a very mixed reception.

The New York newspapers give prominence to the British criticisms of the Note.

The "New York Times" remarks that a German victory would be the greatest peril to the United States.

There is much excitement in Germany. It is reported from the Hague that if the Entente leaves the door open for negotiations Germany will immediately declare her principal peace terms.

General Haig reports successful trench raids southward of Ypres, the enemy suffering heavily.

Except for a violent bombardment in the region of Harcourt, there is no news of importance from the French front.

There has been further heavy fighting in the Dobruja, where the Germans and Bulgars claim to have made a further advance.

British troops have captured El Arish, east of Suez, which has been in the Turks' hands for two years.

The British force in Mesopotamia is also making progress.

## WESTERN FRONT.

## TRENCH RAIDS.

(Admiralty—per Wireless Press.)

General Sir Douglas Haig reports having successfully raided trenches on Saturday night southward of Ypres, inflicting many losses.

It adds: There is considerable reciprocal firing between the Ancre and the Somme, and at Loos. We effectively bombarded trenches eastward of Ipres, and dispersed a large party of the enemy southward of Ypres, west of Bapaume.

At Doullens, Haig, reporting at midnight on Friday, stated: We repulsed an attempt to capture the village of Houthouwer. Our artillery dispersed working parties north of the Ancre.

A French communiqué states that there is nothing important to report, except a slight bombardment in the region of Harcourt.

A Paris communiqué on Saturday afternoon stated: The enemy, after a violent bombardment, tried to approach our line at Auberville, in the Champagne, but was easily repulsed.

Fifty lively enemy artillery action took place at Harcourt and Chambray.

A Paris communiqué issued at midnight on Friday stated: There has been a heavy artillery duel in the region of Harcourt. Several successful counter-attacks have been carried out on different sectors. There has been an intermittent exchange of fire.

An earlier French communiqué stated: There has been lively artillery fire in the Loretum district and on the Meuse.

At Athens, Dec. 23. The Government threatens to suspend the transfer of troops until the Allies' new demands are received.

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## EAST OF SUEZ.

## EL ARISH TAKEN.

## AFTER TWO YEARS.

LONDON, Dec. 24. An official message from Egypt on Friday stated: We occupied El Arish after it had been for two years in the enemy's hands.

The enemy intended a stubborn resistance, and constructed a strong entrenched position at Masadi, covering El Arish. The rapidity of our advance completely upset the enemy's calculations, and forestalled the arrival of the enemy's reinforcements. The enemy abandoned their position on the night of the 19th instant, and retreated east and south-east.

The recapture of El Arish is a serious blow to the Turks.

A later official message says: Our aircraft dropped a ton of high explosives on an enemy concentration at Magdabas, causing many casualties.

They attacked Beersheba and Ajia, and seriously damaged an important railway bridge at Tel-el-Sharia, northwards of Beersheba.

## MESOPOTAMIA.

## SUCCESSFUL BRITISH ADVANCE

LONDON, Dec. 22. Mr. Edmund Candler, telegraphing from the banks of the Shatt-el-Hai on the 17th, says: We advanced on the night of the 15th. The march, which was across perfectly level country with only landmines to be carried out without a hitch.

The infantry and cavalry reached their objective exactly to time. The infantry crossed at three fords near Atab at dawn, and the cavalry lower down the stream. Within an hour the pioneers were building up ramps, and the enemy outposts dispersed.

Two pontoon bridges were erected across the Hai, which is a hidden river bordered with low scrub. The fords are numerous but treacherous. Some of the transport carts were caught in quicksands. The Turks held the position until our cavalry was within 200 yards, and they were driven from it.

Our aeroplanes during the moonlight flew over Kut-el-Amara and bombed a bridge which was being towed up in sections, scattering the pontoons. The Turks were unable to transport troops except by ferrying them.

During the 15th we advanced within three-quarters of a mile of the Tigris south-east of Kut-el-Amara. On the 16th we dispersed a considerable number of Turkish irregulars, advancing on the western bank of the Hai.

Our troops are in high spirits owing to the move after their long halt. We can see the people in Kut-el-Amara under the roofs of the houses. We could reduce the place to a heap of mud and ruins if we liked.

The weather throughout has been most favourable. The sun is strong at midday, with a slight breeze at night. The ground is dry, facilitating transport, while one heavy fall of rain laid the dust.

## OFFICIAL MESSAGE.

(Admiralty—per Wireless Press.)

LONDON, Dec. 23. An official message relating to operations in Mesopotamia states that our aeroplanes have raided the Turkish advanced base near Bagdad, whilst our artillery heavily bombarded hostile trenches near Kut-el-Amara and Samarra.

## ROUMANIA.

A Paris communiqué on Saturday afternoon stated: The enemy, after a violent bombardment, tried to approach our line at Auberville, in the Champagne, but was easily repulsed.

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## PEACE TERMS.

## DR. WILSON'S NOTE.

## A MIXED RECEPTION.

## GERMAN AIMS.

LONDON, Dec. 24. Mr. Bonar Law, replying to Sir William Byles in the House of Commons, said that President Wilson's Note would be dealt with after communication with the Allies.

The latest American messages show that the newspapers and public are greatly puzzled by President Wilson's action. There are many suggestions that President Wilson is in possession of facts unknown to the public. The Note is not really an effort to end the war, but an attempt to gain information in order that the American people may know what they are fighting for or against if Germany's war methods force the United States into the war.

The confusion caused by the President's Note is really due to Dr. Wilson's desire for soft wordage in diplomatic intercourse. The Note, therefore, is primarily intended to force Germany to disclose her peace terms.

A Washington message says that persons heretofore most accurate in forecasting the German Government's action have declared that Germany will answer President Wilson by giving her peace terms immediately.

Mr. Lansing's statements have been forwarded to American diplomats abroad for the purpose of informing them of the correct interpretation of President Wilson's Note.

Wall-street showed a substantial recovery on Friday.

A later Washington message says the German proposal to send peace terms confidentially to the Allies is interpreted as an attempt to secure bargaining. It is not likely that America will agree.

The newspapers feature an open letter from Mr. Bertrand Russell (an English scholar and pacifist) to President Wilson, urging the President to end the war.

Paris newspapers point out that the Note is not an unfriendly act, and its rejection will not be unfriendly either. They regard it as a mistake, since it establishes no difference between the aggressors and the aggressed.

GERMANY HOPEFUL.

It is reported from the Hague that German newspapers assert that the German Government anticipates the Entente's reply will not definitely reject the peace Note. If the Entente leaves the door open for negotiations Germany will immediately declare her principal peace terms.

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## EL ARISH RECAPTURED.



It is officially announced that forces east of the Suez Canal have recaptured the town of El Arish, after it had been in enemy hands for over two years. The town is shown about 30 miles west of the border between Egypt and Syria, and on the main sea route from Syria to the Suez Canal at El Arish. The enemy has used this town as a point of concentration in connection with his previous attacks in the direction of the canal, and its capture by the British considerably strengthens their hold on the waterway.

## ATTACKS ON SHIPS.

## THREATENED RUTHLESSNESS.

The "Daily Chronicle's" Amsterdam correspondent says: Widespread revival of warfare feeling in Germany is reported here. If this is true, there will be doubtless great rejoicings among the conservatives who are using the attitude of the Allies to strengthen the war party's hands. That the German masses could be induced to clamour for prolonging the war is unlikely in view of their miserable condition.

Regarding Germany's proposed peace terms, the latest view here is that these are extremely moderate—Germany being even ready to compensate Belgium. Great sacrifices, however, it is said will be demanded from Russia who will be asked to relinquish Courland, reeling, however, under the weight of the Allies.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE INTERVIEWED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. Mr. Lloyd George, in an interview in "Everybody's Magazine," says that the world's hope is that America will realise that the call of destiny is walking her in some journey, and that her destiny lies in the enforcement of international law and rights.

"ALMOST STUPEFYING."

Mr. Hall Caine, the English novelist, in a letter to the "New York Times," says he does not doubt President Wilson's sincerity, but the lack of feeling in the Note is surprising, almost stupefying. Never in the history of diplomacy, he adds, has such a tragically uniformly open been made by the head of a great nation. The Note has turned back the clock of peace for months.

NO TURNING BACK.

ALLIES STAND FIRM.

PARIS, Dec. 24. The French Senate, by 194 votes, has carried a vote of confidence in the Government.

ROME, Dec. 24. The Italian Senate, after Signor Boselli's speech proclaiming Italy's firm resolve to push on with the war until victory was attained, unanimously carried a vote of confidence in the Government.

BRITAIN'S AIMS.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

LONDON, Dec. 22. The King's Speech, proroguing Parliament to February 7, alluded to the King's Majesty's confidence that, however long the struggle, the indefatigable determination of all his subjects throughout the Empire will achieve a victorious consummation of our war aims. The Government had been reconstructed solely with the object of furthering this, unaltered and unimpaired.

The speech adds: "The vigorous prosecution of the war must be our single endeavour until we vindicate the rights violated by the enemy, and establish Europe's security on a sure foundation."

It concludes by expressing assurance of the united support of all the King's people in this sacred cause, and invokes God's blessing.

IF PEACE COMES.

AMERICAN POLICY.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22. The State Department announces that if peace negotiations result in a league to enforce peace the United States will no longer follow a policy of avoiding entangling alliances. There will probably be an alliance between pan-American and certain European Powers.

Mr. Lansing regrets the British interpretation of the President's Note. He explains that it did not mean that Mr. Wilson believes the belligerents' objects are the same, but the belligerents' statements say they are the same.

NEW YORK newspapers give prominence to the British criticisms of the Note.

The "New York Times" says: "Germany must now decide whether she will propose terms acceptable to the Allies, or continue the fight subject to the probability that in the not distant future the United States will enter the war against Germany. We know a German victory would be the greatest peril to the United States."

PEACE AND PROFIT.

STOCK EXCHANGE DOINGS.

Mr. W. R. Wood, of Indiana, a Republican member of the United States House of Representatives, has moved a resolution for the House to investigate whether someone high in the United States Administration made a profit on the stock market on advance information regarding the President's Note.

THE GERMAN LEVY.

GENEVA, Dec. 23. Germany's levy on masses will be enforced in Prussia within a week and in Bavaria a week later.

## LATE WAR NEWS.

## FRANCE'S ANSWER.

## TO GERMANY AND DR. WILSON.

PARIS, Dec. 24. The French Senate's resolution of confidence in the Government embodied the main substance of the address to the enemies of France by the Revolutionary Convention of 1793—"France cannot make peace with enemies occupying her territory."

The public are enthusiastic, and interpret this as a reply to Germany and President Wilson.

OPINION IN ITALY.

ROME, Dec. 24. The Italian newspapers consider President Wilson's intervention inopportune and his suggestions impracticable.

SUBMARINES.

DANISH AND SWEDISH STEAMERS SUNK.

LONDON, Dec. 24. The Danish steamer Hroptatyr and the Swedish schooner Nyord was torpedoed, and subsequently found abandoned, drifting in a gale.

SHIPPING SCHEME.

IMPORTANT PROPOSALS.

LONDON, Dec. 24. Sir Joseph Maclay (Shipping Controller) has initiated an important twofold scheme to revolutionise our carrying capacity. It comprises firstly the speeding up of construction already begun, and secondly, a new method for quicker construction by means of the standardisation of the hull and engines.

The scheme is expected to go far to fill the gap in tonnage due to submarine depredations.

COTTON DECREE.

CAIRO, Dec. 24. A decree prohibits the storing of cotton or its disposal to anyone, except residents, without a special permit.

The decree is intended to prevent shipment to persons having enemy associations.

WAR-TIME LIGHT OPERA.

LONDON, Dec. 24. Basil Hood's patriotic three-act light drama, "Young England," the music by Hubert Bath and G. H. Chittenden, had an enthusiastic reception at Daly's Theatre. The newspapers pronounce it a great success. It is characterised by the breezy spirit of old English romance, and introduces Drake and other heroes, also Queen Bess.

The opera includes stirring scenes and some dainty love scenes. The score is described as being of high and scholarly quality, charmingly tuneful, and graceful, and the nearest thing to Sullivan we have had for years.

THE KING.

MESSAGE TO SAILORS AND SOLDIERS.

The following cable messages were received from his Majesty the King by the Governor-General, and published in District Military Orders yesterday:—

I send you, my sailors and soldiers, hearty good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. My grateful thoughts are ever with you for victories gained, for hardships endured, and for your unflinching cheerfulness. Another Christmas has come round, and we are still at war, but the Empire, confident in you, remains determined to win.

May God bless and protect you.

At this Christmas time the Queen and I are thinking more than ever of the sick and wounded among our sailors and soldiers. From our hearts we wish them strength to bear their sufferings, speedy restoration to health, a peaceful Christmas, and many happy years to come.

GEORGE R.I.

ENGLAND'S FOOD.

An energetic start has been made in many boroughs round London to place vacant land under food cultivation. The land is divided into small allotments whereon householders can raise vegetables.

AUSTRIAN MINISTRY.

Count Stephen Burian has been appointed Austrian Finance Minister and Count Otto Clamauer Foreign Minister.

WHEAT BAGS DAMAGED.

At Trundle Railway station some persons, with a sharp instrument, cut open a number of wheat sacks. Every sack in the wheat stack was more or less damaged, some being slit from top to bottom.

ESCAPE FROM LOCKUP.

PERTH, Saturday. Frederick George O'Neill, who was yesterday morning refused bail, and who was in custody on a charge of having uttered a forged cheque, escaped from the Perth lockup in the afternoon, and up till a late hour last night still retained his liberty.

MR. LYNCH, M.P. EXPELLED.

GOULBURN, Saturday. The Labour League has endorsed the action of the executive in expelling Mr. Lynch, M.P., for the Werriwa, from the Labour movement.

NATIONAL ECONOMY.

ADELAIDE, Saturday. The statement made on behalf of the F.I.L. executive in Sydney, to the effect that a concerted movement is being set on foot by the Federal and State Governments to enforce economy at a time like the present, has been enthusiastically received by the people of Adelaide.

THE ARABIA.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. Britain's reply regarding the status of the Arabia is that she never was in the Government service. She carried some Government passengers at the Government's expense, but no Atlantic except the crew. She did not follow the regular route because of submarines.

## WAR NOTES.

## EAST OF SUEZ.

The statement that British troops have recaptured El Arish will be read with special interest. In the first place, Australians have in all probability assisted in this success against the Turks, and, in addition, we have the satisfaction of knowing that the possession of the town strengthens the defence of the Suez Canal, through which pass so many of our overseas steamers. Since the failure of the Turkish attempt to cross the waterway in February, 1915, the enemy has endeavoured to sustain his threat to this great connecting link between Europe and the Orient. More than once he has made extensive preparations for another attack, but the desire to hold up a considerable British force for the defence of the canal, there was always the prospect that he might reach and damage it. The capture of the town is a point of concentration and supply depot. Its loss to the enemy therefore makes a successful attack on the canal less likely.

EL ARISH.

El Arish is a town of less than 2000 inhabitants, and is situated near the Mediterranean coast, over 100 miles west of the border town of Rafah, and about 100 miles by road east of El Kantara on the Canal. It is situated on the northern caravan route, or the Suez Road, leading across the desert from Syria to the Canal. It was by this route that all the great historical invaders of Syria from Egypt, and of Egypt from Syria, proceeded, and during the present war the Turks have probably made more extensive use of the route than of the Pilgrim Road from Akaba to Suez in the south. It is situated close to the mouth of the Nile. It is generally considered that the capture of El Arish is a north-easterly direction from the Pilgrim Road in the south. The El Arish district is sparsely inhabited. The town of El Arish is a point of concentration and supply depot. Its loss to the enemy therefore makes a successful attack on the canal less likely.

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EL ARISH.

El Arish is a town of less







financial, commercial, and  
men of Australia quite sincere

209-milling establishments, 22; stone, clay,  
and glass, 24; raw materials, 17; clothing and  
textile fabrics, 18; and shipbuilding and re-  
pairing, 13. Increases were shown in metal

Cabbages, 3/ to 4/; lettuce, 8 to 1/ per dozen.  
Asparagus, 6/ to 8/; horseroot, 1/ to 1/6; carrots,  
10 to 1/3; celery, 3/ to 2/6; beets, 1/; leeks, 1/6  
milk, 8 to 1/; parsnips, 2/ to 2/6; parsnips, 1/6 to

## MINING

well, and I am in perfect health. You  
Clements Tonic has worked a miracle, and  
made a new woman of me."—Advt.

comprised therein, and which carry in the aggregate 260 sofa prize money, close with

Town Plate Handicap of 100 sovs., 110s.—Mr. Coombe  
 Alright, by Hunt Brien (imp.)—Lady Eslinski, all 110  
 curr. and 110s (E. Nicholson), 1; Mr. J. Burke's Gascara  
 And (T. D. Burke), 2; Mr. W. J. Rickett's Sweet

7lb. Betting: 5 to 2 v Sir Mestyn, 3 to 1 v M'Alister, 4 to 1 v Coolcross, 6 to 1 v Jingo Joss, 7 to 1

Set 41b: Boontree, Set 47b: Golden Fortunes, Set 51b:  
 Pistol Prince, Set: Little Joan, Set 107b: Ribberre  
 Set 108b: Pland, Set 109b: Naughtier Mofly, Set 47b:  
 Aurelio Boel, Set 51b: Connewarrie, Set 121b: Clue

sub: English Malt, 7st 6lb; Baccari, 7st 3lb; Oracles, 7st 11lb; Battle Queen, 7st 11lb; Zeebrian, 7st 12lb; Miss Earlston, 7st 11lb; Blagf, 7st 6lb. Won by eight lengths.

preceded at 7.00 by Moby Marton and Jack Hill in six rounds, and at 8 o'clock by Henry Kilrain and Herb Williams, in 10 rounds. The first try-out will commence at 7 o'clock, and the doors will be opened at 6.30.



Cooktown, Thursday Island, and Gulf Ports, via Be  
hane.—Muagave, 4.30 p.m.  
Tasmania, via Melbourne.—Onah, 5 p.m.  
Coff's Harbour and Jettty.—Finney, 5 p.m.

**COAST GUARDS**

Young, Youell, Payne, Bull .....	52	..
Anderson, Holroyd, Goodson, McAllister ..	52	..
Turner, Hibbert, Craig, Cherry .....	52	..
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>..</b>

10

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A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

AS TO BUSINESS—FORGET IT.

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STREET.

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SPECIAL DISPLAY OF LUXURY

WEDGWOOD BLACK BASALT WARE

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HOLIDAY MAKING

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"THE BUSIEST SHOP IN SYDNEY."

OPEN WEDNESDAY MORNING AS USUAL

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BIG SPECIAL PURCHASES

OF

READY-TO-WEAR GARMENTS,

MILLINERY,

AND

UNDERCLOTHING.

If you want a happy money's worth

give us a look in on Wednesday.

"SOROSIS."

THE WORLD'S BEST

FOOTWEAR.

SOLE AGENTS,

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"THE BUSIEST SHOP IN SYDNEY."

127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 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